



Back to School

Tips for Partnering with Teachers

There are a few relationships more influential to a youth than their relationships with parents and teachers. The school year is just about to begin (or has already started) for most parents. That means school supply shopping, new schedules, a new rhythm and a new teacher for your students. After talking to teachers about how parents can support them in the classroom, we wanted to give you some ways to partner with your kid's teacher. After all, we can do more together.

Communication - Most teachers have anywhere from 25 to 200 students on their rosters. They agree, they should be communicating with you. Yet, when parents can take the initiative and reach out, especially when something is off (like you notice a low grade on a test, or a missing assignment), teachers can help address that issue specifically for your child. Don't be shy about sending them an email to talk about something. Communication is essential to partnering together.

Trust - All relationships need trust in order for them to thrive. Teachers said that trust looked like valuing teachers insights, respecting their classroom policies and respecting the process of learning. Sometimes, it looks like allowing the teacher to motivate students outside their comfort zones. Trust can go a long way to helping your child's teacher.

Appreciation - Don't just save this for Teacher Appreciation Week. Simply saying thank you, or exchanging a smile, is a huge way to appreciate a teacher. Picking up some extra school supplies, tissues, and hand sanitizer helps teachers not need to dip into their pockets for these materials. A quick e-mail or note goes a long way during the school year. Oh, and a gift card to a coffee shop always helps!

Volunteer - Ever thought about heading into your child's school to volunteer? There is always something that can be done, sorting letters, helping lead a reading group, or chaperoning a field trip. Look for ways to help the school and build your partnership with the teachers.